

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
October 28, 2013

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. LaGuardia Property Acquisition

Natural Resources Coordinator Jennifer Kaufman and Open Space Committee Chair Jim Morrow presented the many reasons for their recommendation that the property be acquired.

Quentin Kessel, Codfish Falls Road and Chair of the Conservation Committee, spoke in favor of the purchase.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Rd, asked management to consider consulting with the Connecticut Audubon Society to make the property a habitat for birds.

The public hearing closed at 7:35 p.m.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road and candidate for Council, requested additional information on the garage overages and the Letter of Intent with the Connecticut Water Company (CWC). (Statement attached)

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, asked whether the Town has the ability to obligate UConn with the LOI with CWC, whether the questions raised by the advisory committees have been addressed, and questioned the financing and filtration systems.

Brian Coleman, Centre Street and candidate for Council, requested the rental parking ordinance be abolished; the number of unrelated people living in a rental unit be reexamined; and changes to the nuisance ordinance be made. (Statement attached)

Winifred Gordon, Charter Oak Square, requested more opportunities for the public to address the water supply issue and suggested the advisory board be established now to begin that process.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike and Republican candidate for Council, spoke against the proposed amendment to the Parking Management Agreement and suggested the interest rate be 8%.

Alison Hilding, Southwood Road, requested additional time for the public to comment on the Letter of Intent with CWC and questioned the role of the proposed North Hillside Road Extension in the reduction of traffic. Ms. Hilding urged the Council to look at opportunities for mass transit.

Ron Baker, Storrs Road, complimented the Council on the progress made with regard to student partying activities and their willingness to work with UConn to find solutions.

V. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report Town Manager Matt Hart noted the passing of Louise Guarnaccia, a former Town of Windham first selectman and a colleague who will be missed. Mr. Hart offered his condolences to Jack Guarnaccia and his family.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Mr. Paulhus noted that it has been his honor to serve on the Council for the last ten years and wished all members continued good luck.

Mayor Paterson expressed her condolences to the family of Dan Martin who recently passed away. The Mayor remembered Mr. Martin as a veteran, family man and a gentleman who was active in the Town.

The Mayor also commented on the letter from the Tolland Fire Department Chief thanking the Mansfield Fire Department for their assistance and a new tip line activated by the Mansfield Resident Trooper's office which will accept anonymous calls. The number is 860-429-3370.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. LaGuardia Property Acquisition (FHWA Public Lands Highway Program Discretionary Grant)

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Keane seconded, effective October 28 2013, to authorize the Town Manager to finalize and to execute the purchase of the 18.7-acre parcel known as the LaGuardia property.

Members discussed some of the suggested uses for this parcel including historical, cultural and habitat opportunities.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Water Supply Project/Letter of Intent with Connecticut Water Company

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective October 28, 2013, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the attached Letter of Intent between the Town of Mansfield and the Connecticut Water Company, concerning the provision of water utility service to the Town.

Members discussed the fact that a public utility does not need an agreement to provide a service to a community; the need to be involved in the discussions; the need for additional public input; the role and structure of the proposed advisory committee; the condition of the existing infrastructure in the Town; the allocation of water; the importance of a regulated water source; the route of the water line; and the right to use UConn's infrastructure to access water.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann who voted no.

4. Storrs Center Update

- Energy Costs for Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center
This information was provided in response to a request from Councilor Freudmann.
- Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge
Council members discussed the advisability of the pledge and whether a better way to determine adherence would be using an average square footage charge for utilities within the municipality. The Town Manager will check to see if this measurement would be applicable to the pledge and will provide information on the Town's progress in meeting the goal for FY2012/13.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

5. Update on New Single-Family Refuse Collection Service

Public Works Director Lon Hultgren and Willimantic Waste Company owners Tim and Tom DeVivo reviewed the history of the process and the problems encountered to date. Many of the initial concerns have been successfully addressed, but the Town is still looking at alternatives for those residents who are having problems moving the containers to the street. Ginny Walton has been in contact with these residents to try to find solutions.

6. First Amendment to Parking Management Agreement

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective October 28, 2013, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the proposed First Amendment to the Parking Management Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Leyland Storrs, LLC.

The Town Manager outlined the history of the garage overages and the proposed changes to the Parking Management Agreement which would memorialize Leyland Storrs LLC's contribution to the overrun costs.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Amendments to Ordinance Regarding Residential Rental Parking

Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective October 28, 2013, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on November 12, 2013, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed amendments to the Ordinance Regarding Residential Rental Parking.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Contract between the Mansfield Board of Education and the Mansfield Education Association

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded that the Town Council ratify/approve the tentative four year successor agreement between the Mansfield Board of Education and the Mansfield Education Association beginning July 1, 2014.

Motion passed unanimously.

9. Proclamation in Honor of Mansfield's Veterans

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective October 28, 2013, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation in Honor of Mansfield's Veterans.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Veterans' Day Ceremonial Presentation Planning Subcommittee

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to appoint Christopher Paulhus as the Council Emeritus Chair of the Veteran's Day Presentation Planning Subcommittee.

Mr. Paulhus stated he would be honored to serve.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Paulhus who abstained.

By consensus the members agreed that Mr. Paulhus be empowered to recruit members to assist him.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Kochenburger, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Fee Waivers, reported the Committee has decided to delay bringing their recommendations to the Council until after the election. One of the still outstanding policy issues is whether a cap should be put on fee waivers for any given family.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

11. J. Littell (10/30/13)

12. T. Luciano (10/22/13)

13. J. McCarty (10/15/13)

14. Downtown Partnership Expenses Per Project for Fiscal Year 2013 – Mr. Freudmann clarified that the numbers do not include benefit costs.

15. Legal Notice (10/18/13)

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

No suggestions offered.

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XIII.EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session is not necessary regarding the sale or purchase of real property.

XIV.ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk